



Garden International School Newsletter



IB World School

February 7, 2011

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of GIS,

I hope that you enjoyed the celebrations for our annual International Day and Evening. We thought it was excellent entertainment combined with a rich learning experience. The flag parade, led by the samba band, was a festival of sound and colour. Students enjoyed the activities that went on during the day. The evening social was the best it has ever been with a large crowd of parents and students enjoying food from around the world. The evening show had many spectacular performances. Well done and thank you to all the organisers, helpers and performers.

This Thursday 10th of February is the Primary production. Don't miss Hoodwinked at 6.30pm in the Main GIS hall.

Finally, don't forget, next week is half term, so no school.

**Kind Regards,
Dave Moroney, BSc, PGCE, MA**

GIS is registered with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in the UK.



department for
children, schools and families



GIS is accredited by the IB to deliver the IB Diploma Programme



GIS is a member of The International Schools Association of Thailand (ISAT) and a member of the Federation of International schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA)



GIS is a Regular Member of the Council of International Schools



Up-coming events:

10 th February	Hoodwinked – Primary Musical
18 th February	Makha Bhucha Day
10 th to 11 th February	Chiang Mai Basketball Tournament
21 st February	Primary basketball games against ISE
22 nd February	Secondary Sports Day
23 rd February	Reception, Years 1 and 2 Sports Day
24 th February	Years 3 to 6 Sports Day
25 th February	Valentine's Day Disco
28 th February	Spelling Bee Knockout (Years 1-3)
28 th -Feb-March 1 st	World Maths Day

International Day



Garden proved just how multi-cultural it is by hosting an international day. Our school has an amazing 40 different nationalities and the day celebrated this diversity.

Held on February 4, the day started 8.15am as students sat by their countries' flags and HM the King's anthem was played. There was then a Samba/flag parade followed by all the national anthems of those at GIS.

Students then took part in activities that included Canadian hockey, Thai food decorating, Latin dancing Dutch pancakes, Chinese dumplings and even a game of darts. Foundation had a celebration of nationalities and cultures, while Primary held a special 'passport' activity.



In the evening there was a barbecue with a selection of international dishes and a show for years 4 to 13. IB students led the food-making activities as part of their CAS programme.



OPEC Director visits GIS

Mr Charnwit Tapsupan, Director with the Office of the Private Education Commission (OPEC), briefly visited Garden International School on Friday 28th January.

He was greeted by Principal Mr Moroney, Khun Bussaba and Khun Lalita.

GIS was one of three private schools in Rayong Province that were selected as part of a day of special visits to the area.

Putting their hearts into teaching

Some of Garden's teachers have been rewarded for their hard work with a top award. The GIS teachers went to the Star Hotel in Rayong as part of the nationwide 'Teachers in Students' Hearts' day on Sunday, January 16. The event featured a live link to Bangkok, where Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva handed out some of the honours.



Lucy Howett (Primary Year 2 teacher), Sage Ball, Martine Morris (not pictured) Khun Pia (Primary TA) and Chris Stokes (Secondary) were the GIS teachers who received awards.

In Rayong, monks led chanting before the certificates were handed out. The annual government awards are part of Teachers' Day and are held in memory of Juling Pongkanmoon, a teacher who was murdered at her school in Narathiwat in 2008. They recognise excellence in teaching. Also present at the awards were staff from Garden's sister school, Rayong English Programme School (REPS).

- *Pictured (from left) GIS staff K.Lalita, Lucy Howett, Chris Stokes, Sage Ball and K.Pia.*

Supporting the support staff

A raffle has been held to give away gifts to GIS' valued support staff.

The activity was held on January 31 and involved raffling off unclaimed prizes from the Christmas fair. The school's support staff were delighted to go home with some great gifts.

Student Council

The Student Council has started hosting some lunchtime events. These included a bingo game, which was won by Azeez (Year 11) and Pume (Year 8). They were rewarded with ice creams as their prizes.

Valentine's Day is coming soon and the Student Council is hosting a late Valentine's Disco called 'Colores de la Primavera' (which means 'Colours of Spring'). It will be in the hall on February 25 from 6pm-9.30pm. For the first hour bands and performances will entertain everyone and then the music and dancing will begin.

There is a sign-up sheet on the third floor for anyone who would like to take part in the performances.

We also thought that students may like to keep up-to-date and in contact with the student council. Go and visit <http://scgjis.wordpress.com/> - this allows students to post comments and their thoughts on how things are going, suggestions are also welcome.

Comments must be sensible and will be approved by a student council member before they are posted.

Please comment and tell us your thoughts and how you would like us, the student council, to help you, the students.

News from Primary and Foundation

Primary to stage Robin Hood musical

The curtain is about to rise on a new GIS production. Key Stage 2's production of 'Hoodwinked', is a musical adaptation of the timeless story of Robin Hood.

Will Robin free the nation from the tyranny of the wicked Sheriff? Will King Richard return from the Crusades in time? Will Maid Marian get her man? Find out on Thursday the 10th of February at 6.30pm in the Main GIS hall. Tickets will be available on the night, costing 100B for adults, 50B for children.

Star students!

Primary has announced its latest Stars of the Month.

The honours go to Mary (1T), Swamini and Aastha (2L), Tessa (3T), Chloe (3K), Nutt (4C), Rachael (4J), Om (5M), Julie (5S), Amit (Ms. Horwell), Aditi (Mr Watkins), Dream (Library), Y6W (Music), Lindsey (Spanish), Chloe (Mandarin), Sabrina O (Thai language), Anushka (Thai culture), Pop (EAL), Ken (DT). Congratulations!

Ms Lucy's cycling sister

Two women are travelling overland, mainly cycling, all the way from London to Garden International School Rayong. And one of these ladies is the sister of our own primary teacher Ms Lucy!

Students have watched the pair's progress on a website as the ladies passed through Europe, the Middle East and China. Check on their latest position by visiting www.onelittlewheel.com.

There are two reasons for the trip. The first is to gather opinions from young people by asking them why they think HIV/AIDS continues to devastate lives. This is research for Voices, a project that captures opinions from around the world in video clips.

The second reason is to raise money for two charities: the Food Chain in London and the Camillian Centre in Ban Chang.

Catherine – who is Ms Lucy's sister – and her friend Liz will arrive in Ban Chang at the Camillian Centre, on Sunday 20th March. Many people have asked what they can do to help. Any money donated in Thailand will be spent at the Camillian Centre, which cares for children and adults with HIV. I am collecting money for them in Year 2.



The centre needs constant funding to keep going. For example, 700 baht can help a child get vital nutritional supplements, while 4,000 baht could provide a wheelchair.

Let's see how much we can raise!

Ms Lucy (Year 2)

Songs, dance and jokes in talent show

The GIS 'Primary has Talent' competition has selected its final 12 contestants.

The dynamic dozen through to the finals are Aditi – dance, Peter – piano, Anjini – dance, Katrina – singing, Sonal – dance, Suyash – jokes, Shilpi – dance, Swamini presentation, Seren – music and singing, Aastha – dance, The Nutty Boys – Suyash, Tarush, Karan and Abhishek – dance, Shin – singing.

The semi-final is on Monday April 25. The top six from this will go on to the grand final on June 13. All six of these will win a prize. Good luck!

News from Secondary

GIS students enjoy Chinese performances

The Mandarin department took Year 10 and IB 1 standard level students to the Garden International School Bangkok Campus on January 14.



It was a great opportunity for the students to join such events as the Chinese New Year celebrations. The students enjoyed performances that included a Chinese fan dance and Chinese singing.

They also enjoyed a warm welcome from their sister campus gave and left the Mandarin department looking forward to more similar events in the future.

Students cut the mustard at IB

My IB 1 English B class (Tony, Hyomi and Mint) have come across some strange English metaphors, proverbs and sayings.



To help teach new vocabulary I sometimes have what I call "Practical English exercises". These include the actual ingredients of the word or words in question. This enables a student to directly relate the physical items in front of them to the new word/s. The powerful senses of smell, sight and taste all help students remember the new word.

When we came across 'keen as mustard' I acquired some French Dijon mustard and German Frankfurters. Tony, Hyomi and Mint will now never forget the taste of mustard, indeed, whenever they taste it again they will immediately think of being enthusiastic or willing to do something.

Mr Berry

Model Students



We have lift off! Our budding pilots are enjoying more model making – with even more variety and even more students.

Links have been re-established with our model supplier in Bangkok and so a large number of models are now available for ordering (with a 20% discount) Hip hip Hooray! Of course the young pilots are also able to buy their models from any good model shop in the area.

The fine art of reading detailed instructions so that your model doesn't end up like a Tuk-Tuk is only one of the skills required to construct a beautiful, life-like model.

Then there's the tricky task of negotiating glue, modellers' knives, hair clips, elastic bands, different types of paint, springs, transfers, sand paper and ejection seats. It's all in a lesson's work for these young pilots. Chocks away!

Flt SGT Berry

Sports News

Volleyball Workshop

A Volleyball workshop took place on Saturday January 22 at GIS. The day started with a presentation about volleyball skills and rules. After a quick break, the GIS students learned various skills, such as how to bump, set, spike, serve, block, and dig.



After lunch, everyone headed to the gym to practice various strategies.

Mr Komson Penpoo, a leading coach from Bangkok, gave students useful tips, while coaches from GIS, Regents and ISE also helped run the activity.

The hard work evidently paid off, as on January 31 the GIS Under-15 teams beat International School Eastern Seaboard (ISE). The girls beat ISE 3-0 and the boys won 2-1. Well done to everyone!

Robert Edwards
Head of Physical Education/Sport

Garden Gladiators Win Plate Final



After being invited back for a third year, the GIS Gladiators cricket team took part in the 'Southerners Cricket Sixes Bash' at Harrow School in Bangkok. Although the Gladiators fielded a younger team this year, the youngsters produced a performance out of the top drawer. Their first game was against the Siam Cockatoos, a team that (ironically) went on to win the tournament, but with a 10-run loss the boys did not disgrace

themselves. The youngsters then took it to Southerners Black, chasing a healthy total and ending up victorious.

Next, on the Saturday, GIS took on Pattaya Sports Club. Whilst they narrowly lost, they were seeded 7th overall and were placed in the Plate Division (2nd tier). The Gladiators again dispatched the Southerners Black team and made it to the Plate Final against an extremely strong Siam Parrots team. The Gladiators got off to a flying start with 'Chippatti Sam' and 'Southpaw' Khanijou combining well at the top of the order. After a brief 'hiccup' by Viraj at number 3 who got an outside edge, GIS posted a respectable 59 runs. Through some outstanding bowling from Yogesh 'The Flash' Bala and Parth Shah (who again took two wickets in an over) the boys throttled the Parrots' attack and ended up with a glorious victory. Our next game will be at the St Andrew's Tournament.

HELPING MAKE OUR SCHOOL THE BEST IT CAN BE

News from the volunteers of the P.T.A. (Parent Teachers Association)

Some members of the P.T.A .have started up an online discussion group. If you would like to join please apply for an invitation by writing to ptatreasurer@gardenrayong.com (I believe you will need a Google account).

In the future this discussion group could be online during P.T.A .meetings, this would allow parents that are unable to make the meetings to still have involvement and input. I believe a translator can be used on the discussion posts this could also help with the current language barriers. We look forward to your comments on this.

The next PTA meeting is **Tuesday, 28th February, at 3.20 pm** in the Primary assembly Hall. We still need Chairperson and Secretary..... and lots more Parents.

New Agendas Items so far...Privacy in the changing rooms
Devina Maxwell

Get in touch!

If you have any articles for the newsletter, please send them to markb@gardenrayong.com before the end of each month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.